

Mansion House (Jesse Smith House)
Nauvoo Illinois

Hancock Co.

HAES 26-24
HABSS
ILL,
34-NAU
1

Reduced Copies of Historic Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 26

APPENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr., District Officer
Room 404, No. 520 No. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

HABS
ILL,
34 NAU,
1

MANSION HOUSE
HANCOCK COUNTY
NAUVOO, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT NO. 26
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-24

By. W.J.O'Connor

SOURCE

Mr. Page
Custodian
of the
Mansion
House

The Mansion House was the home of Joseph Smith, the prophet and organizer of the Mormon Church. History tells us that he received a revelation from God commanding him to build in His name a house where he and his family were to have a right of permanent residence.

Construction of the building which was called the Mansion House, was started in 1842 and finished sometime in August 1843, as letters and documents in the hands of Mr. Page show that Joseph Smith and his family moved into their new home on August 31, 1843.

The Mansion House was primarily used as a home but was open to many visitors until lack of means required that Joseph Smith make a change and operate the house as an hotel. Later an Ebenezer Robinson ran the hotel while Joseph Smith retained a few rooms for himself and family.

With the murder of Joseph Smith the property came into the hands of his widow, Emma Smith who resided here for a number of years.

Alexander and David Smith inherited the property upon the death of their mother and after some years Alexander bought David's share, thereby gaining control of the entire property. For sometime after his acquisition Alexander allowed the building to deteriorate till eventually the rear portion (David's share) had to be torn down.

The house was eventually rented by Alexander to his wife's relatives, Kendall by name, who lived here for some twenty years. After the Kendalls came a family by name of Grass. From then till 1918 numerous families occupied the home of whom no trace can be found.

In 1909 Alexander died and his son, Fred A. Smith fell heir to it. In 1918 he deeded

the property to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Intensive repairs were undertaken immediately and the house stands today in excellent condition with most of the original details still in tact.

The wood thruout this building is white pine, floors, joists, studs, clapboards and trim.

The house stands at Main and Water Streets, Galena, Illinois.

By William J. O'Connor
Approved E. C. F.
District officer

March 30, 1934

Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.

Addendum to
Mansion House
(Joseph Smith House)
Main and Water Streets
Nauvoo
Hancock County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-26-24

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34-NAU,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127